

The Gospel of John – Part 70

“Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

John 21:1-14

Desert Son Community Church

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April 15, 2012

I. Introduction

II. Who will **care** for the disciples at Jesus’ absence?

- The disciples would be forced to make a choice...
 - A. The disciples could depend on their own **skills** and **trades** and return to their familiar way of living
 - B. The disciples could continue in the gospel ministry dependent on God’s **power** and **provision**

III. The disciples’ human **weakness** and failure (John 21:1-5)

- The phrase “after these things” refers to an **unspecified** amount of time
- Those present were:
 - Simon Peter
 - Thomas
 - Nathanael
 - The sons of Zebedee – **James** and John
 - And two others – most likely Andrew and **Philip**
- I believe that Peter is declaring that he is **returning** to his former livelihood

Why do I believe the disciples are returning to their former profession?

1. John 16:32
 - The term “his own” implies more than the disciples returning to their own home
 - “His Own” also applies to one’s property, one’s possessions, one’s **business** and one’s affairs

2. There is the use of the **definitive** article with the noun translated “boat”

The definite article is generally used to indicate a specific thing or set of things (e.g. "the book" as opposed to "a book," etc.). There is also an important reflexive use of the definite article, in which it is used in a reflexive sense to indicate someone or something that belongs to, has some relation to, or is a physical part of the subject (e.g. when the Greek literally says "the boy reads the book," it may actually mean "the boy reads his book"). The context will determine when the definite article is being used in this reflexive sense.

- In Greek the definitive article suggests that this is not just any boat or a **rented** boat, this is a specific boat

3. In John 21:15, Jesus asks Peter, “Do you truly love me more than these?”

- Jesus is referring to the boats, the nets, the fish and everything else that was **associated** with his fishing business
- The first lesson was taught – **Failure** is inevitable when you step out of God’s desired plan for your life

IV. God’s divine **power** and the disciples’ success (John 21:6-14)

- Jesus is **reinforcing** their original call and His promise to meet their every need (Luke 5:1-7)
- The Lord not only provided the **passengers**, He prepared and protected the vessel

V. Application

Make these verses your verses for the week:

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31, NIV)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(1 Timothy 1:12-17, NIV)